



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,439	01/12/2006	Naoto Hirosaki	TCP-002	7446
32628	7590	09/22/2008	EXAMINER	
KANESAKA BERNER AND PARTNERS LLP			KOSLOW, CAROL M	
1700 DIAGONAL RD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 310				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2848			1793	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/22/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/564,439	HIROSAKI, NAOTO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	C. Melissa Koslow	1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-43 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 15-17, 28-32, 42 and 43 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

This action is in response to applicants' amendment of 14 July 2008. The abstract of 14 July 2008 is acceptable. The amendments to the specification have overcome the objection to the disclosure. the amendments to the claims have overcome the objections to the claims, The 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejections and the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections over claims 15, 18, 29, 35, 36 and 38. Applicant's arguments with respect to the remaining rejections have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 21-24 are confusing as written. The claims indicate that the raw material is produced by the process of claims 21-24, but there are no process conditions in these claims. Pages 31-32 and the examples teach that a container is filled with the raw material at a filling factor of 40% or less in volume density. It is suggested to reword claim 18 so that it reflects the teachings in the specification.

The amendment to the claims did not overcome the rejection. The claims as written indicate that the raw material used in the process of claim 18 is produced by the process of claims 21-24. The claimed process is different from that on pages 31-32. The rejection is maintained.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re*

Goodman, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-11, 33, 34 and 36-41 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-14 and 24-26 of U.S. Patent No. 7,253,446. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patented device suggests the phosphor and devices claimed in this application.

Applicants' response to this rejection is to argue the filing date of the present application and to state a terminal disclaimer will be filed if necessary. These arguments do not overcome the rejections and thus it is maintained.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-11, 33, 34 and 36-41 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-14 and 24-26 of commonly assigned patent 7,253,446. Specifically, the patented device suggests the phosphor and devices claimed in this application.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office normally will not institute an interference between applications or a patent and an application of common ownership (see MPEP Chapter 2300).

Commonly assigned U.S. patent 7,253,446, discussed above, would form the basis for a rejection of the noted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) if the commonly assigned case qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) and the conflicting inventions were not commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made. In order for the examiner to resolve this issue, the assignee can, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(c), either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(f).

Claims 1-12, 18-20, 25-27, 33, 34 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. patent 7,253,446.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention “by another”; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified

under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

There is no evidence in this file showing that the invention was owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same entity as that of U.S. patent 7,253,446 at the time this invention was made, or was subject to a joint research agreement at the time this invention was made.

This reference teaches a β -sialon phosphor having the formula $\text{Eu}_s(\text{Si}_{6-z}\text{Al}_z)_{1-s}\text{O}_z\text{N}_{8-z}$, where s is 0.011-0.019 and $0 < z \leq 4.5$ and teaches that the phosphor is produced by mixing europium oxide, silicon nitride and aluminum oxide, forming the mixture using sieving into an aggregate having a size of 125 microns, placing the aggregates in a BN crucible, heating the aggregates at 2000°C in a nitrogen atmosphere of 1 MPa in a normal pressure sintering or gas pressure sintering method, heating the sintered material at 1700°C and then grinding the material to a size effective for use in a LED based device. The Examiner takes Official Notice that this particle size is 20 microns or less. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to grind the material of example 1 to 20 microns or less. The taught phosphor at least overlaps that claimed and the process falls within that claimed. While the reference does not teach the filling factor of the agglomerate in the crucible, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to fill the crucible to an extent so as to allow the reaction of raw material to the taught and claimed β -sialon phosphor can occur without lifting the crucible lid during processing. This amount appears to at least overlap the claimed range since the claimed range is that so as to allow the reaction of raw material to claimed β -sialon phosphor can occur. Thus the reference suggests the claimed phosphor, process and devices.

Applicants' arguments are noted, but the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) due to the difference in inventive entities, not under 35 USC 102(e). Applicants did not response to the Examiner request to show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter. The rejection is maintained.

Claims 15-17, 28-32, 42 and 43 are allowable over the cited art of record.

Claims 13, 14 and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These claims are allowable for the reasons given the previous action.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melissa Koslow whose telephone number is (571) 272-1371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo, can be reached at (571) 272-1233.

The fax number for all official communications is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/cmk/
September 25, 2008

/C. Melissa Koslow/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1793